Mr. Mummadi H. C. VEERABHADRAPPA.—When the raiyats want to settle down in a depopulated village, should not the Government encourage them?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—Government never said they will not encourage them to build houses and live there. There are 600 acres of waste and gomal lands and if there are applications, Government will be prepared to consider them.

Mr. G. KANCHAPPA.—Are the Government aware that absolutely no revenue has been derived from the trees all these years?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—No.

Mr. C. PATTABHIRAMASETTY.—What is the loss to the Government on account of the village remaining depopulated for so many years?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—There is no loss. Though there are no houses, cultivation is going on.

Mr. C. PATTABHIRAMASETTY.—Is it the intention of the Government to improve their excise revenue at the cost of agriculture?

Mr. A. V. RAMANATHAN.—Not at all. As I said already, agriculture is going on there and the land still available can be given away in *darkhasts*.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE BUDGET.

Resolution No. 2.

Mr. Hosakoppa KRISHNA RAO moved the following resolution:—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that far larger grants than provided in the budget for 1935-36 be provided for drinking water wells in the State, their administration being handed over to the District Boards with advantage."

In doing so, the mover represented that the grants made at the time for public improvements were very inadequate. Health, sanitation, and drinking water wells were the imperative needs of villagers. As the Government were interested in the welfare of rural population, they should, instead of waiting for better times, straightaway sanction the programmes of works as and when they were submitted by District Boards, and also provide for the Government's contribution somehow or other. The District Boards should not be regarded as bodies subordinate to the Government, but as independent self-governing institutions, to whose recommendations due weight should be given. In reviewing the administration reports of District Boards, it was usual for the Government to remark that the local bodies should improve their financial resources, but they seemed to forget that there was no way open to them of improving their resources except by additional taxation which was out of the question under the existing economic conditions. He therefore requested the Government to grant suitable annuities to the local bodies from out of the central revenues, the total of such annuities bearing a certain percentage to the entire land revenue collections for the year. There were many reasons why the Government should augment the resources of the District Boards. After the inauguration of the village panchayet scheme, certain items of revenue previously accruing to the District Boards, such as *amarai*, *mohatarfa*, etc., were transferred to the village panchayets. Latterly the district board revenues were further depleted by the Government taking away from them the management of toll-gates. It was not clear to him why the Government should have deprived the District Boards of this important source of income. He requested the Government to give back to the local bodies the administration of toll-gates. He added that as the late Mr. Gokhale had observed, District Boards were the political training ground for the citizens and it was necessary to give financial autonomy to such important bodies in addition to supplementing their income by liberal grants from general revenues. He observed that the budget position of the State was not likely to improve for a long time to come, and he therefore suggested that until the budget position improved, substantial reductions be effected in the expenditure on general administration, and the savings utilised for giving grants to the local self-government institutions.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA seconded the resolution. He pointed out that the question of making larger grants for drinking water wells was coming up before the Assembly over and over again. It was a well known fact that the health of the rural population was affected seriously for lack of pure drinking water. The grants now made for providing wells were in the form of doles and not more than two wells per district could be sunk with them. Even now, he said, the Government should not be satisfied by giving another Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 50,000 but should lay down a 10-year or 20-year plan for providing wells in all the villages in the State. He urged that an immediate beginning be made in that direction by allotting at least another lakh of rupees for the purpose in the budget for the coming year.

In further supporting the resolution, **Mr. T. MARIYAPPA** invited attention to his Resolution No. 53 on the same subject and represented that the present Second Member of Council had been kind enough to promise when he visited Nagamangala in 1934-35 a suitable grant for sinking drinking water wells. Relying upon that promise, raiyats in about 40 to 45 villages had sunk wells; but stone revetment was not possible since no grant was given and the raiyats had no money of their own to spend. The wells remained in a neglected condition and in some cases they were coming down. The District Board also had no funds to help the villagers with. He thought there must be many more cases of a similar kind and requested the Government to do their best to help them. He suggested that the allotment in the budget might be enhanced to at least one lakh of rupees so that each interior taluk like Nagamangala might get some grant and all incomplete wells might be completed early.

Mr. M. SUBBIAH represented that the enhanced grant of one lakh of rupees proposed by the previous speaker would not go far enough in the direction of giving wells to all the villages—not even in the most urgent cases. He urged that the grant should be increased to at least Rs. 2 lakhs. He said that the surplus of revenue shown in the budget, *viz.*, Rs. 2 lakhs, might best be utilised for the purpose.

Mr. B. SRINIVASA RAO brought to notice that water scarcity was felt for nearly 10 years past in the Kolar Gold Field area as all the wells there had dried up. He requested the Government to sanction a special grant for the Kolar Gold Field Sanitary Board area during the coming year, so that wells might be sunk in at least 4 or 5 villages in that area.

Mr. L. VEMA REDDY thought that besides enhancing the existing grant, the Government should also see that every village panchayet first provided a drinking water well within its area and then think of any other works or improvements. He suggested that the District Boards also should be made to pay their first attention to this item of work. Unless this was done, he was afraid it would not be possible to provide all the villages with drinking water wells.

Mr. B. N. BORANNA GOWDA was of opinion that the Government must adopt a bold policy in the matter of meeting this want. There were 19,000 villages in the State of which 13,000 had panchayets of their own. In about 10,000 villages there were no drinking water wells at all. So instead of giving annually Rs. 8,000 or Rs. 10,000 for a whole district, he suggested that the Government might, taking advantage of the prevailing low rates of interest, immediately borrow Rs. 10 lakhs and advance the necessary amount of money to each village panchayet with a minimum population for providing itself with a well. The amount so advanced could be recovered from the panchayets in any manner the Government thought best. If they were given any option, the panchayets would not make timely repayments and would allow their funds to be frittered away in various ways. Unless some special action was taken to see that wells were provided in all villages, he was afraid that the rural population were bound to live the miserable life which they were living at present.

Mr. K. L. NANJAPPA NADIG commended the suggestion of the previous speaker. He added that with a view to augmenting the resources of local bodies, the Government ought to pay interest on the panchayet funds deposited in the Government treasuries.

Mr. K. M. KRISHNAPPA GOWDA pointed out that the resolution referred to the Government making increased grants for the purpose of sinking drinking water wells, and as such, the question of granting loans to local bodies for the purpose did not arise. He said that it would be idle to expect the village panchayets with their present slender resources to repay any loan which might be advanced by the Government. He therefore requested the House to confine itself to the terms of the resolution and persuade the Government to set apart a lumpsum amount every year which would be adequate to sink at least a certain number of wells in each district. At the rate at which progress was being made now, it would be centuries before all the villages could be satisfied. So far as the budget for 1936-37 went, he suggested that the entire surplus of Rs. 2 lakhs might be earmarked for the sinking of wells.

Mr. S. C. MALLIAH who also supported the resolution said that while sanctioning grants, the Government should impose a condition that in utilising the grants, priority must be shown to completing half-finished wells, fresh wells being taken up only thereafter.

Referring to the suggestion about granting loans to village panchayets for sinking wells, he said that the proposal would be tantamount to saying that the panchayets should bear the entire cost of the wells. But in several villages wells had already been provided at Government cost. The proposal referred to therefore would amount to an invidious distinction as between one set of villages and another. Besides, the village panchayets would not be in a position to repay the loans advanced by the Government at all. For these reasons, he was not in favour of the proposal that the Government should give loans to panchayets. After all, these had to spend money only for stone work and not for earth work, because the villagers would themselves contribute labour so far as the latter item of work was concerned.

So, the Government also need not make any very large grant for each well. The money market being very favourable, the Government might raise a loan to the extent necessary. For the present, he thought that about 1,000 wells would do and that provision therefor should on no account be postponed. One could forgo the benefits of education and yet live well, but if pure water was not available, disease and suffering would increase and make life itself not worth living for the millions of people in the villages.

Mr. MIR MOHAMED SAHIB pleaded for a special grant to be given to the malnad districts for drinking water wells, and **Mr. JATHARE NAIK** for inclusion of the particular places in the Shimoga District in which members of the Barrajara community lived in large numbers, in any special programme of well works to be undertaken.

Replying for the Government, **the FIRST MEMBER (Rajamantrapravina S. P. Rajagopalachari)** explained that the Government were as anxious as the members of the Assembly to provide drinking water wells in all the villages of the State. But obviously it was not possible for the Government to do so all at once. At the same time, the question was urgent in the sense that people could not calmly wait for water until such time as the Government or the local bodies concerned found themselves able to provide the necessary funds. The only practical way of solving the difficulty was for the Government to make whatever grant was possible and for the local bodies to supplement the same with their own contributions. If the people depended only on the Government grant, they could never have wells in the villages. In special cases, however, Government would always be prepared to bear the entire cost of the wells because, in such cases, the villages would have to go without any well at all unless the Government went to their rescue. This was the general policy of the

Government in respect of drinking water wells. But in the light of the representations made in the House, Government would again consider to what extent the allotment already made under this head could be enhanced.

In the light of the sympathetic reply of the Government *the resolution was withdrawn by the mover.*

Resolution No. 8.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA moved the following resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that adequate provision be made under '26. Education—(6) Primary Education' in the budget."

He explained that the Government were spending only about Rs. 17 lakhs for primary education in the State. Out of this, as little as Rs. 15,000 went towards expansion, *i.e.*, opening of new schools. Even for the following year, the same small amount had been provided. He said that this amount, when distributed among all the eight districts, would prove to be absolutely inadequate, and naturally, the new schools that could be opened would be very few indeed. So far as the District Boards went, they had not enough funds even for the maintenance of their roads, and as such, it would be futile to expect them to set apart any funds for educational purposes. He therefore prayed that at least one lakh of rupees might be earmarked in the budget for expansion of primary education.

In seconding the resolution, **Mr. T. MARIYAPPA** observed that of all grades of education, primary education was the most important if the percentage of literacy in the State should improve and come up to the level of the percentage in other States and Provinces in India. But he regretted to say that the policy adopted by the Government in regard to primary education at present was far from satisfactory. Several members were inclined to urge that the Elementary Education Regulation should be repealed and that the Government should take over the entire responsibility for primary education in the State.

Continuing, he said that for the current year, the Government had allotted only Rs. 15,000 for expansion and in answer to the demand made by a large number of members of the Assembly that the allotment should be enhanced, they had stated that if schemes were sent up by local bodies for expansion, the provision would be enhanced. But he regretted to say that as a matter of fact, all the schemes sent up by local bodies had been rejected on some pretext or other. To obviate this difficulty in future, the member suggested that the department itself might take the initiative and frame expansion schemes and put them into execution in the best manner possible and in consultation with the local bodies concerned. With such a change of procedure, he said, the scope for opening new schools would be larger. The present grant of Rs. 15,000, he said, would go nowhere for such a vast item of work. He prayed that it should be raised to at least Rs. 50,000 with the help of which provision could be made to run special evening classes in all the rural areas for the benefit of children of agriculturists, so that they might be free for work on the fields during the day.

Mr. M. SUBBIAH thought that Rs. 50,000 would not do for the purpose in view and that the provision ought to be increased to Rs. 2 lakhs. In this view, he suggested that the anticipated surplus should be fully utilised for it.

Mr. S. C. MALLIAH, also speaking in support of the resolution, pointed out that according to the original scheme of the Elementary Education Regulation, it was expected that schools would be established in all the villages in the State and that primary education should be made compulsory. But seeing that the majority of the villages had not even a single school, he enquired whether it would at all be possible to introduce compulsion even at a distant future date. The member, however, recognised the difficulty in the way of the Government finding all the funds required for the purpose. It was to solve that difficulty that he was all along urging on the Government the

desirability of levying an education cess from the residents of the city municipalities who had been getting all the benefits of primary education without actually paying anything towards its cost. Though the Government had stated at one of the sessions of the Legislative Council that orders in that behalf would issue, no action seemed to have been taken in the matter. He hoped that the question would be taken up in right earnest without further loss of time.

Secondly, owing to the non-acceptance by the Education Department of the expansion schemes submitted by the local education authorities, the grant of Rs. 15,000 sanctioned for the previous year had lapsed to Government, with the result that even thickly populated villages went without a school. He therefore requested that in addition to the allotment made for the budget year, the lapsed grants also should be made available for expenditure during the year.

Thirdly, there were some philanthropic gentlemen in the Mysore District, who were prepared to construct school houses at their own cost. He prayed that preference might be given to such places and schools ordered to be given without the least delay Now that the budget position had improved perceptibly, he urged for a substantial increase being made in the grant for expansion of primary education, besides levying an education cess in the cities.

Mr. Tudki RAMANNA GOWDA, who spoke next, remarked that the provision of Rs. 15,000 for the entire State was too meagre to be useful to any place. The local education authority of the Shimoga District was maintaining about 70 schools for some years, but for want of adequate grants from the Government, a good number of them had to be closed down. He prayed that the grant might be enhanced suitably so that the object of the Elementary Education Regulation might be fully achieved.

He next referred to the pay and prospects of primary and middle school teachers and pointed out that while the higher grades had been re-organised, no heed was paid to improving the lot of the primary and middle school teachers. These teachers had not received any increase for several years past and the member requested the Government to look into this question along with that of increasing the number of schools.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA, in supporting the resolution, regretted that in Mysore not much attention was being paid to the progress of elementary education unlike in British India and other sister States. Everywhere else strenuous attempts were being made to remove illiteracy. Not only was a good percentage of the revenues of each State or Province being earmarked for the expansion of elementary education but this was also made compulsory. The steps taken in these respects in Mysore were quite inadequate. He thought that every boy and girl of school-going age must be compelled to attend school and buildings must be made available to accommodate them. What was most agreeably surprising was that the clamour for more and more education was coming from the people themselves rather than that the authorities stimulated interest for it. Parents were willing to send their children to schools, but there were not enough schools. In some places, they had made deposits for furniture, for buildings, etc., but the Government's share of the expenditure had not been provided with the result that schools had yet to be opened. And even where schools existed, admissions were not liberal due to limited accommodation, and the number of teachers was almost invariably insufficient. The provision of more schools was therefore a desideratum. In this view, it would be highly commendable if the Government provided adequate funds every year for expansion of elementary education without waiting for requests from the people in each and every case. Every endeavour must be made by Government to give a school for each village. The Dewan's notable pronouncement, though it was made years ago, that every village ought to have a dispensary, a tank, a drinking water well, a school and a co-operative society, was still ringing in the ears of

the people. But the bright day had not yet dawned when the villages could enjoy all those amenities. A sum of Rs. 15,000 had been provided in the budget for the expansion of primary education. But he was not sure that even that small provision would be fully spent, judging from the experience of the current year. He therefore pleaded that not only enhanced funds be provided but also the amount provided must be fully spent.

Mr. H. KRISHNAMURTHI ACHAR, in further supporting the resolution, observed that it did not speak well of Government that education cess was levied but expansion of education was not arranged for satisfactorily. After the introduction of the Elementary Education Regulation, not one extra school had been provided; if at all, the schools existing in some places had been closed down and a few opened in some other places. The responsibility for the expansion of elementary education had been thrown on the local education authorities, but any suggestions sent up by them for expansion of education were being turned down by Government. For instance, the Kolar District Board wanted to utilise the interest on certain reserve funds at its credit for expansion of primary education, but the Government did not agree to such proposal. He therefore requested the Government to be pleased to sanction the provision of at least two schools every year for each district out of cess receipts. He hoped there would be no objection to that proposal.

Mr. S. K. VENKATARANGA IYENGAR, in further supporting the resolution, observed that not even 13 per cent of the revenue of the State was being spent on elementary education. Sir M. Visvesvaraya's ambition that education in Mysore should be made compulsory was yet to be realised. At the time of the levy of income-tax and education cess the same ambition was repeated. But education had not progressed appreciably although a number of years had rolled by. This statement would be amply borne out if a quinquennial or decennial review of educational progress was made. He would have been glad if the Dewan had made such a review in his speech. Mysore had been spoken of as a Model State, but he regretted to say that it was educationally backward. Travancore, for example, was very much in advance of Mysore in the matter of education, and there was no reason why Mysore should lag behind. As Srimathi Rukminiamma had pointed out, education was the panacea for all evils. And yet, as if merely to avoid blame, the Government had contented itself with merely passing the Elementary Education Regulation and throwing on the District Boards the entire responsibility for the expansion of elementary education. It looked to him that this action of the Government was a master-stroke of statesmanship. In a nice way they had got over an ugly situation. It was now the District Boards that had to take the initiative for the expansion of primary education, the Government's responsibility being only to contribute a certain quota if the District Boards contributed their own quota. It was well known that the resources of the District Boards were slender, and the funds at their credit inadequate. Under such circumstances, the prospect of expansion remained as remote as ever. And what was most astonishing was that even when a local education authority was ready to contribute its quota of the expenditure, the Government were not ready to give their own quota, although they were never tired of saying that they would provide their quota as soon as a local education authority came forward with its own. When the Bangalore City Municipality approached the Director of Public Instruction with a request to meet half the cost of a sweeper on a pay about Rs. 1-8-0, the municipality agreeing to bear the other half, he had plainly replied that the small amount of 12 annas could not be spared from his budget! If that was the reply of the department in respect of a small item of expenditure, the speaker doubted if there could be any salvation for Mysore. Such a state of affairs, he thought, ought not to be tolerated a day longer. He was glad that the

attention of the Dewan was directed towards beautification of cities, but he was sorry indeed that it ended with it. Beauty, no doubt, was necessary, but education was more necessary. Education was the light that dispelled the darkness of illiteracy. The sooner the people became educated, the sooner would all communal bickerings and social inequalities disappear like the mist before the sun. The speaker did not know why the Government seemed to be slow to realise this truth. The figures in the administration reports from the year 1927 to the year 1936 would bear out the statement that the Government were not paying to the progress of elementary education as much attention as they ought to. For the University as much as Rs. 90,000 more had been proposed to be given while for primary education a sum of only Rs. 15,000 had been proposed. And out of this, about Rs. 10,000 was meant to be given away as grant for the Methodist Mission Schools which the Government had taken over under their control, leaving only a paltry sum of Rs. 5,000 to be considered as extra grant for the expansion of primary education. The population was increasing every year and he asked whether this factor should not be taken into consideration while providing grants for Education. He would even suggest the postponement of certain building programmes for the present and the provision of the funds meant therefor for expansion of primary education. By doing so the Government would be earning the gratitude of all people alike. In this connection, he would like to state that more than what was necessary was being spent on the construction of buildings including school buildings in Mysore. In Mangalore, for example, educational buildings had been constructed at very cheap cost. But in Mysore money was being lavishly spent, and that, on account of architectural beauty and æsthetic appearance. He thought that school buildings ought to be put up at very much less cost and expenditure saved in as many other directions as possible. For instance, the system of providing separate schools might be done away with and common schools and common playgrounds provided both for Hindus and Muslims. Such an arrangement, he thought, would ultimately conduce to eradicating religious differences among the people. That in itself was a result to be striven for, but the immediate result of savings was what he was referring to in the main. These savings could be utilised for opening more schools. In two instances in Bangalore City, schools would have been definitely refused but for the fact that a large number of influential residents waited on the Director and pressed for them. If in Bangalore City, under the very eyes of the Government and the department, it was so difficult to get extra schools opened, the difficulty of ignorant people in the mofussil parts getting new schools could well be imagined. It might be that the Government were anxious that education in the State should progress, but somehow things refused to move. The situation, he said, required to be examined with great care, sympathy and promptness. He hoped that this would be done and that in the next year's Address, the Dewan would refer to the progress achieved in the matter of education as a result of efforts, put forth by the Government in the light of the scrutiny suggested.

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Mr. N. S. Subba Rao), replying for the Government, observed that the main contention of most of the members who had spoken on the subject seemed to be that Government should provide an additional sum of half a lakh of rupees for expansion of primary education. Government had every desire to increase the expenditure on primary education and as a matter of fact had provided very nearly the sum that the members wanted. In the current year they had provided a sum of Rs. 15,000 for expansion, and this sum would be renewed for 1936-37, and in addition to this sum there was a provision of Rs. 15,000 in 1936-37. Then again a number of primary schools conducted by the Mission authorities had been taken over by

Government as the authorities expressed their inability to continue the schools, and the choice was between either closing them or taking them over by Government. This involved an additional expenditure of about Rs. 5,000 per annum. A member had suggested that there might be at least two additional primary schools in every taluk. The sum now placed at the disposal of the department would probably provide three schools per taluk. No one was indeed satisfied with the rate of expansion, but that was the best thing that could be done in the existing financial circumstances. He would like the members to realise that it was no good to provide additional schools, if at the same time the existing schools were languishing. It was necessary that the community should get full value for the large expenditure on primary education, and this could be done only if the existing opportunities were fully utilised by the people in villages. A number of schools had hardly an adequate number of pupils. He might add that in addition to this provision for primary education, Government were providing for five additional middle schools and these would cost, when all the classes were opened, Rs. 10,000.

Mr. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR desired to know whether the department had ever made enquiries as to why it was that a large number of pupils of school-going age were not going to school in certain cases.

Mr. N. S. SUBBA RAO replied that it depended on a number of things, and one of the important things was the lack of co-operation on the part of the parents.

Mr. M. S. PUTTARAMA SETTY observed that in the rural parts, particularly when a school happened to be situated at a distance of several miles from any village, the parents would naturally hesitate to send their little children to the school on account of the existence of a number of tanks and wells on the way.

Mr. N. S. SUBBA RAO replied that he was sorry that this was so, and added that it was the ambition of the department, equally with others, to provide a school for each and every village if only circumstances rendered such a consummation possible.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA thereupon withdrew the resolution.

The resolution was withdrawn by leave of the House.

Resolution No. 10.

Mr. S. C. MALLIAH moved the following resolution:—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that a provision of Rs. 5 lakhs be made in the next year's budget under '30. Grants for Public Improvements—5. Rural Reconstruction.'"

In doing so, he observed that the subject-matter of the resolution was not a new one. For the past several years it had been pressed on the attention of the Government not only in the form of resolutions, but also in connection with budget discussion and representations. The amount of Rs. 60,000 provided in the budget was too meagre and even out of that amount, as much as Rs. 30,000 would be consumed on account of establishment charges, etc., and the balance, if distributed to all the villages in the State, would work out to about Rs. 2½ for all the necessary improvements. Everywhere in India, the question of rural reconstruction was looming large in the eyes of the public at the present moment and every day the movement was gaining strength and popularity. Although Mysore was the first to give a lead to other States and Presidencies in this matter, substantial work in the direction had yet to be done in the State. The reason was twofold: in the first place, the necessary funds were lacking, and in the second, no definite plan of work was laid down in this respect as in the case of road development works, for example. Some improvement here and some improvement there would serve no tangible purpose. The district boards and panchayets were willing to co-operate with the Government in the matter of rural reconstruction if only the Government would avail themselves of it.

Unless the villages improved, the State could never prosper. The speaker saw a great future for the State if the Government thought of constructing at least one or two model villages in each taluk. With this object in view, he thought that the time had now come for the Government to give earnest consideration to the problem, preparing a well considered plan of work and putting it into operation expeditiously.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA, in seconding the resolution, observed that the Government had introduced the Village Panchayet Regulation and constituted almost each village into a panchayet without at the same time providing the necessary funds. The panchayets could not show any progress under such a disability. The income from *hulbanni* and *amarai* which properly belonged to them had not been given over to them but taken away by the Government. He requested that at least those proceeds be handed back to the panchayets with a view to augment their revenues, or that the grant for rural reconstruction be increased to that extent.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA said that he was glad that Government were evincing greater and greater interest in the matter of improvement of villages. But the grievance of the people in the interior villages was that all that interest was confined only to roadside villages. The provision of Rs. 30,000 in the budget for village improvement was inadequate. In his opinion, a sum of at least Rs. 2 lakhs must be earmarked for the purpose and special grants provided for the improvement of those villages which were particularly backward. The cry everywhere was that rural areas should be improved. He therefore thought that it would be better for Government to take note of that cry and pay attention to it and carry out all the necessary works according to a definite programme. With these words he supported the resolution.

Mr. H. KRISHNAMURTHI ACHAR observed that, as in Madras, a comprehensive scheme should be prepared and given effect to, the Government and the village panchayets bearing the cost equally.

Mr. K. RAMANNA also vigorously pleaded for enhancement of the grant under rural reconstruction. He pointed out that the village panchayets were still in an infant stage and unable to stand on their own legs, unlike town or city municipalities, and therefore required considerable help till such time at least as they reached the adolescent stage, when, if considered necessary, the grant might be reduced. The resources of the panchayets had been crippled and the Government were taking the income from *amarai* and *hulbanni*. Highly paid officials were being appointed as panchayet inspectors and the bulk of the grant was being consumed on account of establishment charges. The panchayets were unable to levy any fresh taxes in order to augment their revenues, nor could the villagers bear any further taxation. The economic position of the villagers could be gauged by the percentage of land revenue collections. The percentage was every year going down. If the villager, who knew that failure to pay land assessment would result in his losing his lands, failed to pay it, it only went to show his utter inability and helplessness. So, the member thought that with a view to help the panchayets to develop, Government should extend considerable help to them for some years. Later on, he was sure, they would grow and be able to stand on their own legs. In these circumstances, he requested the Government to provide a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs for rural reconstruction, as prayed for in the resolution.

Mr. K. L. NANJAPPA NADIG, in endorsing the views of the previous speaker, observed that at present local self-governing institutions were not getting that amount of encouragement which they were once getting. For instance, panchayet conferences were being held formerly under the distinguished presidency of Members of Council, etc., opportunity being afforded thereby for the members to put their heads together and devise ways and means of improving the panchayets.

At present no such conferences were being held and no encouragement given. He requested that encouragement be given to the panchayets in the shape of larger grants.

Mr. T. MARIYAPPA regretted that Government were not paying due attention to the villages. In introducing the Village Panchayet Regulation, Government had stated that their object was to make the villages more and more educated in order that these might associate themselves with the administration of their local bodies, so that in course of time they might become fit to be associated with the administration of the State as a whole. Appreciating this laudable object of the Government, the villagers agreed to bear additional taxes with their eyes fixed on the distant horizon of local self-government. But that horizon remained as distant as ever and local self-government continued to be a mere ideal. Elsewhere greater attention was being paid to rural uplift The Government of India had sanctioned during the previous year as much as a crore of rupees for village improvement, and in the current year also they had sanctioned more than that sum for the purpose. But Mysore had altogether a different tale to tell. A paltry sum of Rs. 64,700 had been provided for rural reconstruction, of which more than Rs. 30,000 was being consumed by establishments, leaving only about Rs. 30,000 for improvements proper in all the villages together. The state of affairs was really regrettable. And what was more regrettable was that the grant for the budget year was even less than in the current year. At this rate he did not know when the villages would improve. He would remind the House, in this connection, of what Sir M. Visvesvaraya had stated a few years before then in the course of a lecture on "The Vision of a Prosperous Mysore," at which the present Dewan himself presided. The lecturer had emphasized the need for the improvement of villages. But the Dewan was paying all his attention to the improvement of the cities which only outsiders were appreciating. The villages were in a deplorable condition. With no drainage, no good houses and no drinking water wells, and with unclean surroundings which were the hot-bed of diseases, they presented a most sorry spectacle. The only improvement effected was the erection of gate pillars at the entrance to each village, indicating the name of the village. In the case of villages below the Irwin Canal area especially, whole localities had become malarial. It had become imperative therefore for Government to inaugurate both curative as well as preventive measures in all the villages generally. Improvement of villages would depend on the extent of earnest attention which local officers paid to this important work. It was only when a comprehensive scheme of improvement was prepared and acted upon, that the villages would improve. Unless that was done, he had no hope for the villages. He had no objection, to begin with, to particular interior villages being selected for improvement. He would appeal to Government not to believe the reports of local officers but to see for themselves how far conditions there required improvement. One suggestion he would make was that in each of the villages specially taken up for improvement, altogether new extensions should be laid out and model houses constructed therein with drainage, lights, and proper sanitation provided for all of them. For this and other items of rural reconstruction under a comprehensive scheme, he thought that not less than Rs. 5 lakhs was necessary and he therefore requested the Government to accept the resolution.

Mr. H. K. MADIAH, in supporting the resolution, observed that the chairmen of most panchayets were illiterate. What with the party feelings in the villages and what with the general backwardness of the people, coupled with the chairmen's own illiteracy, no improvements worth the name could be effected in the villages, unless the local officers took special interest in the matter. He therefore requested that the Amildars and other revenue officers should evince, in the matter of village improvement, the same keen interest as

they did in the matter of collection of land revenue. Panchayet collections were not being made satisfactorily and there were heavy outstandings to be collected. If these were collected, he thought a substantial amount would become available for being utilised for the improvement of villages even without the panchayets having to look for grants from the Government. Even in the routine administration of the panchayets, there was slackness. Meetings were rarely held, and if a meeting was convened, in most cases the members would not respond, and in some cases not even the chairman. Granting that somehow or other a meeting took place, no business could be transacted on account of factions. In a few rare cases business would be transacted and resolutions passed. But then the difficulty was that resolutions submitted to higher authorities would never again be heard of. This was the state of affairs, and this the grievance, of most of the panchayets. He requested that Government be pleased to rectify all the defects connected with the working of village panchayets by taking such steps as were necessary. Continuing, he brought to notice that village panchayet and revenue inspectors were not doing very good work, and stated that if they worked well and all the demand was promptly collected, it would not be difficult to sink more wells, build more schools and do other works of improvement. So he requested the Government that in addition to sanctioning larger grants for village improvement, they should also issue special instructions to the Revenue Inspectors, Amildars and Sanitary Inspectors to show better work in respect of collections and village improvement.

Mr. H. M. CHANNABASAPPA also regretted that the provision made for village improvement was inadequate, as each panchayet would get only about Rs. 3 for improvements. With the meagre sum of Rs. 3 he did not know what improvement worth the name could be effected. Government were exhorting educated men to go back to the land. But he would ask Government whether they really thought that educated men, accustomed to city life, would go back to the villages when these were quite unfit for habitation and without any amenities whatever. He suggested that expenditure in other possible directions be curtailed and the savings utilised for rural improvements. For instance, in his opinion, the grant to the Public Health Department might be reduced by one lakh of rupees as the department did not justify such a large grant as Rs. 2½ lakhs and that the grant for the Agricultural Department also be reduced by as much as Rs. 2 lakhs as the raiyats were not getting an adequate return from the department. Similarly the grants for some other departments might be reduced to the extent of Rs. 10 lakhs. He thought that at least Rs. 5 lakhs should be provided for rural reconstruction.

Mr. K. M. KRISHNAPPA GOWDA observed, in further supporting the resolution, that whenever Amildars and other revenue officers went to a village, they paid greater attention to unimportant matters, such as how the approach roads were maintained and whether the gate pillars had been whitewashed or not, than to seeing how the heart of the village was kept up and what the sanitary conditions there were. If the villages should improve, he said, attention must be paid to sanitation and to the development of minor industries. With this end in view, he requested the officers of the Health and the Industries Departments to go into every village, study the health and industrial conditions there, and after due consultation among themselves submit to Government a comprehensive scheme of development of the rural parts.

Mr. A. KANCHAPPA explained that so long as the Amildars went on selecting, as a matter of course, patels and shanbhogs as chairmen and secretaries, respectively, of village panchayets, the villages could not prosper. Although educated persons were available in the villages, the Amildars preferred shanbhogs and patels for the obvious reason that they were the two village officers upon whom they should depend for most

of their revenue and other work. The other educated people, having been ignored for long, naturally lost interest in the welfare of the village. The speaker had no objection to the village officers occupying the positions in the panchayet provided they were educated men and able to discharge the duties expected of them. But where they were not the best available men, he thought that others must be preferred. In the next place, he suggested that the Government must adopt a revised procedure in the matter of grants, *viz.*, to say that the sanctioned grant would be actually made available to any given village only when improvements in all the prescribed directions were completed to the extent chalked out for the particular year to which the grant related. An arrangement like this, he thought, would result in at least some of the villages showing all-round progress, and that would be an incentive for other villages also to come forward sinking all differences to improve themselves. He also requested the Government to enhance the grant now proposed for rural reconstruction as prayed for in the resolution, and he hoped that this could easily be done with the help of the surplus of revenue over the expenditure in the budget year.

Mr. T. S. ALI KHAN, in opposing the resolution, observed that the improvement of a village must commence with sanitation. Then the villagers must be taught how to employ their time usefully. For this they must be given education and enabled to improve their habits of life. The Education Department must arrange to deliver lectures to the villagers, young and old, in open grounds and in schools as to how they should improve their habits and how to lead a life of cleanliness, etc. If this was done and grants were given for improvement works in the villages, real improvement would follow. Without sufficient education to the villagers, he was of opinion that no improvements worth the name could be effected. He was glad to state that in Kannegowdana Koppal, after repeated instructions given to the inhabitants thereof on the principles of hygiene and other matters, considerable improvement was perceptible in their habits of life. With that experience he was inclined to suggest that a school should be provided for every village.

Mr. N. G. SANJEEVIAH did not agree with the previous speaker in that grants for village improvements should be delayed until after all the villagers had become educated. He also did not agree with Mr. H. K. Madiah that the revenue officers should evince keener interest in the matter of village improvement. In fact he was of the opinion that the revenue officers were already interfering too much in the panchayet administration. If villages were to improve, he thought that a special auditor must be appointed to see the extent of work done in the panchayet, whether the work done was worth the amount spent on it and whether the revenues were being properly collected or not. He feared that at present in most panchayets more than what was necessary was being spent and in certain cases more than three-fourths of expenditure sanctioned for a certain work was not being actually spent on it. The Amildars never considered which item of work was useful and which was avoidable. For instance, in the Anekal Taluk, some village panchayets passed resolutions requesting Government to provide electric lights for their villages. The Government sanctioned their proposal. The result was that at present electric lights were burning all through the nights and all the surplus of income of the panchayets was being paid for the power consumed, much to the prejudice of other necessary improvements. He asked if it was necessary for lights to be kept burning all through the nights. Having created such tastes on the part of the villagers, he said it was the duty of the Government to provide funds for enabling them to meet the cost thereof and also of other items of improvement. He therefore requested the Government to accept the resolution.

Mr. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR observed that rural reconstruction ought to be the first concern of the

Government if the State was to progress. The villages were faring very ill indeed at the present time. They had no good roads. Poverty and illiteracy were reigning supreme. The villagers were falling a prey to diseases. It was necessary to improve the rural areas in the interests of the State as a whole. The Dewan had said some time ago that he wished to see every village have a school, a drinking water well, a dispensary, a co-operative society and a tank. Ever since then people had been eagerly looking forward to the day when that wish would be translated into action. But they were disappointed to find how little the villages had progressed. It was not the mere bulk of the budget, but practical action on the part of the Government, that would satisfy the people. In the budget year Government expected increased revenue under several heads of receipts: as much as Rs. 2 lakhs under Income-tax, Rs. 2 lakhs under Miscellaneous, Rs. 7 to 8 lakhs under Railways and about a lakh of rupees under Stamps. He asked whether they could not have provided a substantial grant for rural reconstruction. By improved methods of agriculture and better encouragement for the improvement of minor industries and the like, the earning capacity of the raiyats had to be increased. In order to bring about such improvement it was necessary for the Government to lay down a regular policy of rural development spread over a number of years and to strictly adhere to that policy. In justifying the withdrawal of salary cuts the Government had stated that the financial situation had improved. If so, he asked why adequate grants should not have been made for rural reconstruction. When the Government expected a large increase in revenue in the budget year, they could well have given at least Rs. 5 lakhs for rural reconstruction, though personally he thought that even Rs. 50 lakhs would not suffice for the purpose. Improvement of the villages was more necessary than improvement of the cities.

The SECOND MEMBER (Mr. N. Madhava Rau), replying on behalf of the Government, observed that the debate had covered more matters than were included in the terms of the resolution. And, as it was not a general discussion on the budget, he would not go into each and every one of those matters, but would confine his remarks to only such of the points raised as were within the terms of the resolution.

The main point in the discussion related to the administration of village panchayets. Mr. Madiah had said that by merely providing grant for rural reconstruction village panchayets would not improve, but that in addition the arrears and the current dues must be collected. That indeed was a correct appreciation of the position. If all the arrears as also the current dues were collected, the panchayets would have sufficient resources of their own to carry out improvements, without waiting for grants by Government and the District Boards.

Secondly, it had been stated that a good portion of the expenditure incurred by the panchayets was a waste and that a special auditor be appointed to check it. He agreed that panchayets must be prudent in incurring expenditure and pointed out that the accounts were even now subjected to audit in many cases. But the introduction of a proper independent audit would involve prohibitive cost.

Then, many members had said that the grant provided in the budget year for rural reconstruction was inadequate and that, when distributed to all the villages, each village would not get, on an average, even about Rs. 3. To an argument of that kind, his only reply was that Government did not intend to distribute the sum allotted on the basis of average. It was not their intention to give to each and every village a portion of the grant. Only those villages which showed self-help and initiative would be given grants and that, only for certain kinds of works. If a village waited for a grant from Government for any and every work to be done in it, the speaker was afraid that such a village was bound to get disappointed. There were certain items of work which could be

done by the villagers themselves and for which no grant was necessary and there were certain other items for which a grant from Government was really necessary, such as masonry drains, culverts, etc. It was only for items of the latter type that Government grants were intended to be sanctioned, and in the nature of things the grant could reach only a certain number of villages. The practice of free weekly labour was in vogue for the past 20 years. This practice should be kept up, and it was wonderful how much work could be done unaided in this way alone. However, Government were aware that there was need for help from the State Funds also and, in deference to the wishes of the House, they would sympathetically consider the request for an enhanced grant for rural development.

Mr. B. NARAYANA REDDY requested that orders should be issued by Government to the effect that free weekly labour should be enforced in all cases.

Mr. S. C. MALLIAH withdrew the resolution in the light of the sympathetic reply of Government.

The resolution was thereupon withdrawn by leave of the House.

The House then adjourned for the day to meet again at 8 a.m. on the following day. (There was no sitting in the afternoon, as per request of the members, on account of His Highness the Maharaja's Cup Sweep.)

SIXTH DAY.

Sunday, 7th June 1936.

The Assembly reassembled at the Jagan Mohan Palace Pavilion on Sunday, 7th June 1936, at 8 of the clock, Mr. President (*Amin-ul-mulk* Sir Mirza M. Ismail, K.C.I.E., O.B.E., *Dewan*) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—(*contd.*).

Jayamangali Project.

Q.—24. **Messrs. G. RAMIAH** and **K. SIDDALINGAPPA** (Koratagere Taluk), and **R. CHENNIGARAMIAH** (Minorities).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) have raiyats presented a petition for the construction of a tank by putting up a dam across the Jayamangali River flowing above Yelerampur Village, Koratagere Taluk;

(*b*) has it been ordered thereon that the raiyats should pay contribution;

(*c*) have *mutchalikas*, etc., been obtained from the raiyats;

(*d*) has any further action been taken on this and were not many gardens of Sankenahalli, etc., destroyed on account of the heavy overflow of the *halla* on these gardens?

A.—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** (**Diwan Bahadur N. N. Ayyangar**).—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) The raiyats have given *mutchalikas* agreeing to contribute at Rs. 125 per acre.

(*d*) A project amounting to Rs. 3,39,500 for the construction of the tank has been prepared. Some gardens of Sankenahalli suffered damage due to overflow of water in the stream.

Mr. G. RAMIAH.—Has this project been sanctioned? Are not the raiyats praying for a long time that it should be taken up?

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR.—I do not think it will be sanctioned now. The estimate is high and the return expected is very low.

Mr. G. RAMIAH.—What is the *atchkat*?

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR.—One thousand acres. The return will be Rs. 4,600 which works out to 2 per cent on the outlay to Government.

Mr. G. RAMIAH.—Are the Government aware that 50 or 60 villages in that part of the State have no tanks?